Promotion of Indian Culture

†3351. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any concrete step to promote Indian Culture;

(b) whether Government are considering to take any necessary step to stop women's fashion shows being organised in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the specific reasons therefor; and

(d) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Department of Culture in the Ministry of Tourism & Culture endeavours to promote Indian Culture through the sixteen Scheme operated Departmentally and by forty three organisation run by it. Their details are available in the Annual Reports of the Department.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Earnings from Taj Mahal and amount spent for its Maintenance

†3352. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual earning of the Government from Taj Mahal and annual amount spent for its maintenance;

(b) the reasons behind handing over the Taj Mahal to private sector;

(c) whether Government would regain its control of Taj Mahal by repealing its order; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) During the year 2000-2001 an amount of Rs. 8.48 crores has been collected and deposited in the consolidated fund of the Government of India and an expenditure of Rs. 21.00 lakhs has been incurred for its structural repairs and annual maintenance.

(b) to (d) The Taj Mahal has not been handed over to the private sector, but under the aegis of the National Culture Fund, the Archaeological Survey of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Hotel Company Ltd. to provide financial assistance towards conservation, environmental development and improvement of tourist related facilities. All conservation measures identified under the Memorandum of Understanding will be carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India alone.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.